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NPIC/TDS/D-705-67  
23 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit to Department of Agriculture's Land Resources Branch  
(of the Agricultural Research Service)

1. On Wednesday afternoon, 15 February 1967, [redacted] of PAG, and I spent approximately two hours in the office of [redacted] of the Land Resources Branch of the Dept. of Agriculture. (Room 2939 of the South Bldg. - [redacted]) Also present at this meeting were [redacted] OTT, Chief of the branch, [redacted] and [redacted] from the OAS. [redacted] is a former Agency employee and has an Agency SECRET clearance. Before the others joined us in his office Fred and I briefly explained our proposed "Crop Yields" program to [redacted]

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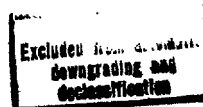
2. The primary purpose of our visit to the Dept. of Agriculture was to get more details on their remote sensing efforts. Rather than describe in detail all aspects of their programs I am attaching to this memo several documents which explain their programs in depth.

3. Attachment # 1 is from the 13 February 1967 copy of Technology week. The passages underlined in red summarize very briefly the results of the work done by Purdue University for the Dept. of Agriculture. Mr. [redacted] had the computer print-outs developed under this study program hanging on his office wall and he also had a conventional 9" x 9" aerial photo print on which agricultural "ground truth" had been recorded. It is important to bear in mind that the aerial coverage for this study was acquired from an altitude of only 2000 ft.

4. Attachment # 2 is a summary of [redacted] briefing notes. I have always been skeptical about the probability of success using computer approaches such as this, but I must say, in all candor, that their

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results as presented by them to us in this briefing were impressive and hard to argue with. I feel that [ ] would agree with this statement, also.

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5. Attachment # 3 is a copy of a proposed continuation of this program. [ ] and his boss, [ ] are understandably anxious to continue this work, but their funds, most of which came from NASA, have been severely cut back. They asked us quite frankly whether we, meaning the Agency, could assist them financially in continuing this research program.

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6. Attachment # 4 is a detailed description of the areas of investigation in which the Department of Agriculture is trying to move ahead. It is dated August 1966 and I believe that the cutting-off of funds has become more acute for them since that document was prepared.

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7. The only remaining topic of discussion is: what bearing does the work being done by the Dept. of Agriculture (with NASA funding) have on our proposed "Crop Yields" study contract? For one thing it makes even more obvious the fact that NPIC should not spend R&D money on any more "spectra-zonal" studies, because not only is Dept. of Agriculture-NASA studying this, but so is [ ] shop. Equally obvious, however, is the fact that there remains a need to investigate the usefulness, now, [ ] imagery in supplying answers to "Crop Yield" problems. None of the other study programs are addressing themselves to this question.

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8. Conclusions. NPIC should let a study contract in the immediate future to either [ ] of PAG, should be NPIC's contract monitor for this study program.

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Development Staff, TDS

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